

August 9, 2006

Dear Potential Vendor:

Attached is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an important process dealing with the future of Vermont's energy resources at a critical time in Vermont's history. Vermont utilities must replace 2/3 of Vermont's electric supply between 2012 and 2016. Vermont's utilities are responsible for replacing these resources. Some or all of these choices will require regulatory or governmental approval. Each potential choice has great implications for the social, economic and environmental condition of our state. Due to the significance of the choices, public understanding, input, and support for the ultimate decisions is essential.

The Department of Public Service will conduct, in partnership with duly appointed members of the Vermont General Assembly, a comprehensive, statewide public engagement process on energy planning focused on energy supply choices facing the state beginning in 2012 and beyond. The purpose of the process will be to educate the public about the energy supply challenges facing the state; to gather meaningful and informed public input about values and preferences of Vermonters regarding energy supply; and by achieving the first two objectives, to ensure broad-based public understanding and acceptance of the resulting choices.

It should come as no surprise, that there will be differences of opinion not only on the outcome of these deliberations, but on the basic facts themselves. These potential conflicts will be resolved when appropriate or possible during the engagement process. Conflicts about energy choices will be identified during the process - perhaps for resolution through an identified mediation process. The Department of Public Service will be the entity managing the contract, however, the anticipated project planning allows the General Assembly's Joint Energy Committee to work with the Department in making changes as necessary to the program as we go forward.

Thank you for reviewing this RFP and we look forward to your submission.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Smith
Deputy Commissioner